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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY : Germany (Soviet Zone)

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DATE DISTR. 2 MAY 52

SUBJECT : Shortage of Scientific and Technically  
Trained Personnel

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE  
ACQUIRED:NO. OF ENCLS.  
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General

1. The deportation of scientists to the Soviet Union, as well as the numerous defections of experienced and professionally outstanding personnel to the West, have profoundly affected the production of the Soviet Zone. The combined effect of this loss of expert personnel, coupled with the insufficient and slipshod technical and scientific training of the younger generation in the Soviet Zone, will become more and more apparent as time goes on.

Scientific and Technical Education

2. In the universities and technical institutes, a large proportion of the study time is devoted to political instruction. It is impossible for a student to pass his examinations, unless he can answer political questions on Marxism, Leninism and Stalinism to the satisfaction of the examining board. One is not permitted to send one's children outside of the Soviet Zone of Germany to gain professional training.

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25X1

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

Effects at Leuna

3. At Leuna, the loss of highly trained and experienced personnel was keenly felt in some departments. The following are specific examples to illustrate this:
- a. The greatest expert in the field of synthetic oil production, Dr Zorn, left the Soviet Zone in 1945 and took a position at Chur in Switzerland. The development of the Leuna 2A synthetic oil, which has excellent qualities as a turbine oil, was one of his accomplishments. His loss was not only felt by the Leuna Plant, but left a gap in the field of oil production in the Zone as a whole.
  - b. In the field of feed water purification, Dr Seip was considered the unparalleled authority in the Soviet Zone. His advice was asked whenever a problem arose. The Soviet Zone railroad system (Reichsbahn) relied on his advice for purifying the feed water used in railroad locomotives. Improperly purified feed water is, of course, extremely damaging. Dr Seip left the Soviet Zone about a year ago.
  - c. Two experts formerly with the Fire Building Department at Leuna are no longer there; [redacted] Dr Hermann and Dr Reitzenstein. The fire building is extremely important to the operation of the plant, since unbalanced heating of the big boilers can produce great material damage and rapid deterioration of the equipment.
  - d. The Hydrogenation Plant at Leuna lost two of its most experienced experts during 1946 or 1947. Dipl Ing Schwab, although assigned to the Repair Shop of the High Pressure Department in the Hydrogenation Plant, was considered the man who knew more about hydrogenation operations than any other engineer at Leuna. His assistant, Dipl Ing Gassner, left shortly after Schwab departed for the Western Zone. The present staff in the Hydrogenation Plant is not equal to these two men.
  - e. Head Engineer Obenaus of the High Pressure Plant left Leuna in the spring of 1951. Obenaus was rated as an excellent organizer, and as an expert in planning and designing. He had much experience in the plant. [redacted]
  - f. Dipl Ing Lang from the Oxygen Plant immigrated to the West. Lang was one of the foremost men in the entire Soviet Zone in this work. Dipl Ing Funke took his place. Funke, the former head of the Repair Shop for the Oxygen Plant, is a very able man, but his change of position left the Repair Shop short of experienced men.
  - g. One of the younger, very talented chemists in the Organic Department left Leuna about four months ago. [redacted] his name was Zerweck. He was working in the Research Laboratory. Dr Wirth, the head of the Organic Department, once called Zerweck "the backbone of the Department".

Effects at Schkopau

4. Two successive defections from the power plant there have left a noticeable gap. [redacted] Dr Bechtold and Geydal.

SECRET

25X1

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

Effects at Luetzkendorf

- 25X1 5. Five oil experts have left there within the last two years. [ ] these defections are largely responsible for the instability and deterioration of the Luetzkendorf oil. 25X1
6. Three fires have occurred in the Oxygen Plant in the space of one year (fall 1950-51). These were due to small iron chips from the bearings getting into the oxygen containers. Such fires occur only as a result of negligence in the handling of equipment. A valuable gas compressor was destroyed in one of these fires. [ ] the investigating committee, [ ] in all three instances in clearing the personnel involved of any guilt. [ ] were agreed [ ] however, that the fires were caused by inept operation of the plant. 25X1 25X1

Effects at Dresden

7. Dipl Ing Roemmler, the former director of the Burkmann Packing and Insulating Plant, left the Soviet Zone in 1946 to take over the management of the Feodor Burkmann Plant in Munich. He was the outstanding expert on packing materials used in gasoline, acid and hot steam plants. His departure left the Soviet Zone with no expert in this field. This lack of experts on packing and insulating materials was so acute that the Kautas firm in Dresden asked the Soviets to release some of the personnel who had been with the former Hecker firm (now also a part of Kautas). These Hecker personnel were arrested by the Soviets in 1945. The Soviets refused, however, to release them from jail.

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